

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

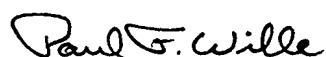
Although the claims have been amended, the issue remains of whether or not the Examiner's interpretation of an input signal as a threshold is reasonable, i.e. as one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would interpret the term. Applicants submit that no one in **any** electronics art would construe a variable input signal as a reference. A threshold may be adjustable but is fixed during measurement.

Claim 9 itself belies the Examiner's interpretation because two signals are compared with each other and with at least one threshold. If these were the same functions, the claim would be redundant. The claim is not redundant because it uses terminology correctly. "Threshold" must mean something other than an input signal.

The citation provided by the Examiner relates to comparators, which is not the issue. The claims distinguish from the prior art as fixed distinguishes from variable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2–6, 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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